



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, December 10, 2024**
Time: **3:00 pm**
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

	Pages
1. Call To Order	
1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement	
“I would like to acknowledge that our gathering today is taking place in (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional, unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi’kmaw people. I would also like to acknowledge that Nova Scotia has another unique people. These are the Indigenous Blacks of Nova Scotia whose legacy and contributions date back over 400 years predating confederation of this land. We are all treaty people.”	
1.2 Oath - Councillor Furlong	1 - 1
1.3 Amendments to Agenda	
1.4 Approval of Agenda	
1.5 Acceptance of Minutes - October 15, 2024	2 - 3
2. Delegations / Presentations	
2.1 Introduction of New APD Chaplain Rev Evan Oxner	
3. Business Arising	
3.1 APD Strategic Plan Verbal Update	
3.2 Provincial Appointment to the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners	
4. Board Member Orientation Part 1	4 - 22
5. Chief's Report	23 - 27
6. Next Meeting	

7. Closed Session

7.1 Approval of Closed Session Agenda

7.2 Acceptance of Closed Session Minutes

7.3 MGA 22(2)(f) - litigation or potential litigation

7.4 MGA 22(2)(e) - contract negotiations

8. Adjournment



Oath of Office for Member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Section 45(1) of the Nova Scotia Police Act

I, Nic Furlong, of Amherst, in the County of Cumberland swear that I will faithfully, diligently and impartially execute and perform the duties required of me as a member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, and while I continue to hold office I will, to the best of my judgement, skill, knowledge, and ability, carry out, discharge and perform all the duties of my office faithfully, impartially and according to the *Police Act* or any other Act and any regulation rule or by-law, and will not, except in the discharge of my duties, disclose to any person any matter or evidence brought before the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, so help me God.

Nic Furlong
Councillor

Sworn to at Amherst
in the County of Cumberland,
Province of Nova Scotia,
this 10th day of December, 2024
before me,

Dwayne Pike, Chief
Amherst Police Department

Town of Amherst
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes

Date: October 15, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Paul Calder, Chair
Commissioner, Charlie Chambers
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice Chair
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois
Commissioner Caprice Barbour
Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks

Members Absent Commissioner George Baker

Staff Present Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Brian Gairns, Inspector
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk/Board Secretary

1. Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Amendments to Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Commissioner Fairbanks

Seconded By Commissioner Davidson

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

1.4 Acceptance of Minutes - September 17, 2024

The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. Presentations

2.1 Homelessness/Substance Use Disorder - Ashley Legere - Cumberland Homelessness and Housing Support Association

Chief Pike and Ashley Legere gave their presentation to the Board, included in the agenda package.

3. Business Arising

3.1 APD Strategic Plan Verbal Update

Chief Pike advised that Sharon Bristol was unable to attend the meeting today, and that an update would be given at the next meeting.

4. Discussion / Information Items

4.1 APD Crest

Chief Pike reviewed his memo and crest designs included as part of the agenda package. Commissioner Davidson asked if the union was in support of the crest change, Chief Pike replied the idea came from a union member. Overall, the Board agreed they liked the new design and agreed that it seems to be consistent to what other departments are doing. Commissioner Davidson did ask about removing part of the coat of arms from the previous design and if this is appropriate. Commissioner Fairbanks and Commissioner Bourgeois Ryan both indicated they liked the "cleaner" version of the crest designed for Halifax, and would like to see the Police part emphasized. Chief Pike will take these comments into consideration and bring something back to the Board for review.

4.2 APD Badges Verbal Update

Chief Pike gave a verbal update on the new proposed design for badges, which would include a number for each member that they would retire with. The Board agreed they liked the new design.

4.3 Safe Approach Rescue Vehicle Verbal Update

Chief Pike gave a verbal update on the Safe Approach and Rescue vehicle, advising the floor has been replaced and the vehicle has been painted. Lights and decals now need to be added which they hope will be done in time for the Christmas parade.

5. Reports

5.1 Chief's Report

Chief Pike reviewed his report, included as part of the agenda package.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th at 3:00 p.m.

7. Closed Session

**Moved By Commissioner Fairbanks
Seconded By Commissioner Davidson
To go into Closed Session.**

Motion Carried

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary

Paul Calder
Chair

Town of Amherst

A BYLAW RESPECTING THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE TOWN OF AMHERST

BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Town of Amherst, under the authority of the Police Act, Chapter 31, ACTS OF NOVA SCOTIA 2004.

Short Title

- 1 This By-Law shall be known as the "Amherst Board of Police Commissioners By-Law".

Definitions

- 2 In this By-Law
- (a) "Board" means the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of Amherst
 - (b) "Council" means the Council for the Town of Amherst.
 - (c) "Chief of Police" means the Chief of Police of the Amherst Police Department.
 - (d) "Amherst Police Department" means the Chief and members of the municipal police force of the Town of Amherst.
 - (e) "Minister" means the Minister of Justice for the Province of Nova Scotia

Board Established

- 3 The Council establishes the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of Amherst, with membership as follows:

One Year Term	Two community volunteers
Two Year Term	One member of Council One Community Volunteer
Three Year Term	Two members of Council Other One Ministerial appointment

Membership

- 4 The Town of Amherst is an inclusive and equitable organization. We value inclusivity and diversity in all areas of the workplace, including the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners. We encourage membership from members of groups who are typically underrepresented and with historical and/or current barriers to equity.
- (a) The member of the Board appointed by the Minister shall be appointed pursuant to subsection 44(4)(c) of the Police Act.
 - (b) The members of the Board appointed by Council shall be appointed pursuant to subsections 44(4)(a) and (b) of the Police Act.
 - (c) Dismissal of members of the Board shall be carried out in accordance with subsection 44(7)(a) with regard to a member appointed by the Minister and subsection 44(7)(b) with regard to members appointed by Council.
 - (d) An absence from two consecutive meetings without just cause as determined by the chair and Board members shall be cause for the replacement of a member appointed by Council.
 - (e) Where a vacancy occurs on the Board or where a member is unable to carry out his/her duties as a member of the Board by reason of illness or absence, Council shall appoint a replacement as soon as is practicably possible.
 - (f) The members of the Board appointed from Council shall serve without remuneration.
 - (g) The Board shall, at its first meeting each calendar year or as soon as practicable thereafter, choose its chairperson and vice-chairperson.
 - (h) The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board and in his/her absence the vice-chairperson shall preside.
 - (i) Should the chair become vacant due to resignation or replacement, an election for the Chair shall be held within 60 days of such vacancy occurring.

Procedure

- 5 (a) The Board shall conduct its business according to the bylaws, regulations and policies established by Amherst Town Council, the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, the Police Act and, where applicable the Municipal Government Act.

- (b) The Board shall hold a meeting at least every three months. The Board may meet in camera at any time on 24 hours notice by the Chairperson or any two members or at any time with unanimous consent of all members concerning all matters relating to discipline, personal conduct, contract negotiations and security of the police operations.
- (c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
- (ct) The Chief Administrative Officer of the Town or his appointee, shall be the Secretary to the Board and shall have charge of all minutes, records and accounting procedures to be followed and maintained by the Board.

Chief Officer

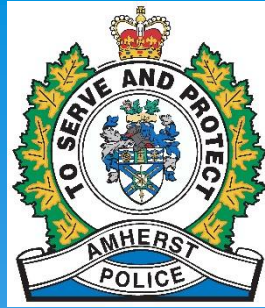
- 6 (a) The Chief of Police shall be appointed by the council, and following a year's period of probation, may not be suspended, dismissed or otherwise disciplined except with cause, and in such event, he shall have the right to appeal, within fifteen days of such disciplinary action, to the Chairman of the Nova Scotia Police Commission. The Commission shall conduct a hearing therein and may confirm, overrule, or modify such action and its decision therein, shall be final.
- (b) The Chief of Police shall advise the Board with respect to the provision of efficient and effective municipal police service delivery. S/he may, in consultation with the Board, undertake in a timely manner research, strategic planning, policy development and implementation, and the reporting of results in response to inquiries by the Board pertaining to its community governance responsibilities as defined in the Police Act.
- (c) The Chief of Police and/or the Deputy Chief of Police shall whenever requested by the Chairman and where practicable attend meetings of the Board, whether public or in-camera.
- (d) The Chief of Police or his Deputy shall be in charge of the management, direction and control of the day to day operation of the police force, including the enforcement of law and the maintenance of discipline within the force. Should such discipline, in the opinion of the Chief Officer, require that an employee be dismissed, such dismissal shall be by the Board on the recommendation of the Chief Officer.

Board Powers

- 7
- (a) The Board shall conduct its responsibilities in accordance with the requirements established by the Police Act,
 - (b) The Board shall, each year, submit to the council for its consideration and approval its estimates of all monies required for the year to pay the remuneration of the members of the police force and staff and to pay for the accommodation, arms and equipment and other things for the use and maintenance of the force.
 - (c) All collective agreements or other agreements with members of the police force or its bargaining agent shall be contracted in the name of the Town of Amherst, and the Town of Amherst shall be the employer of all members of the police force.
 - (d) The Board shall submit all requests for all capital equipment proposed to be purchased to the council, together with the recommendation of the Board for the purchase consideration in accordance with the purchasing policy of the Town of Amherst.
 - (e) The Board shall have the jurisdiction without interference by the Council over all matters relating to the enforcement of all criminal law, federal statutes, provincial statutes, and Town by-laws and ordinances.
 - (g) The Board shall further have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the enforcement of provincial statutes having local effect and Town by-laws and ordinances, but Council shall have the right to request the enforcement of such statutes or by-laws as may be required for the proper administration thereof within the Town.
 - (h) The Chief of Police or his designate shall give all necessary orders, directions and instructions to the police force and no Board member, other than the Chair or his or her designate except when communicating a decision of the Board, shall issue any order, direction or instruction to any member of the police force relative to his duties as a member of the force.

General

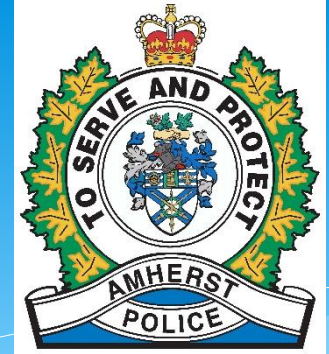
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- The Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief of Police shall be members of any committee appointed for the purpose of negotiating a collective agreement with any union representing members of the Town police force.



Amherst Police Department



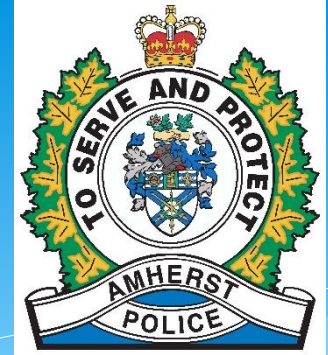
History



- The Amherst Police Department was formed in 1890, just one year after the town of Amherst was incorporated and the population was 3,781*
- Since this time, the Police Department has grown considerably and has occupied many different locations
- Currently the Amherst Police Department has 25 full-time members including several specialized sections and ranks
- Located at 21 Havelock Street, the department has remained an important part of the town of Amherst and its history

* (Leonard Harkness (1989) **History of the Amherst Police Department**. Amherst NS., B.H. Publications Ltd.)

Services

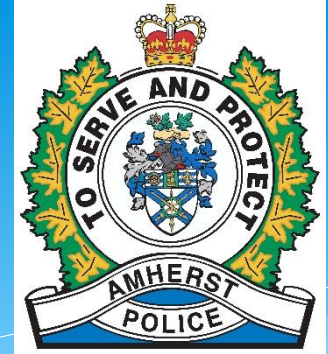


- * Policing and Public Safety
- * Enforcement of Criminal Code, Federal and Provincial Statutes, municipal by-laws
- * Proactive policing initiatives and Crime prevention programs
- * Work with all community partners on community safety and wellness initiatives
- * MOU's with 5 other municipal police departments for specialty services such as IDENT, K9 and major crime/critical incidents



Staffing

- 25 Fulltime sworn Police officers
- 8 fulltime Civilian Staff
- Part-time staff for Crossing guards, jail-guards, dispatch, admin and 3rd Party Criminal Record Checks

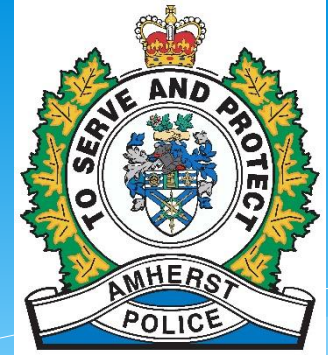


Staffing

• MANAGEMENT

The management team of the department consists of the Chief, D/Chief & Inspector. Their responsibilities include:

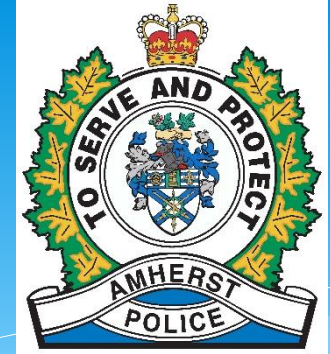
- Ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the Town of Amherst
- Service provided meets or exceeds the provincial standards for policing
- Ensure the Department meets the overall policies and plans of the Town
- Ensure the principles of community policing are applied throughout the operation of the department
- Professional development of staff
- Establish high moral and collegiality amongst the staff of the department
- Report regularly and openly to the Board of Police Commissioners of the Council of the Town of Amherst where necessary and required
- Fiscal responsibility and accountability



Chief Dwayne Pike
D/Chief Tim Hunter
Insp Brian Gairns



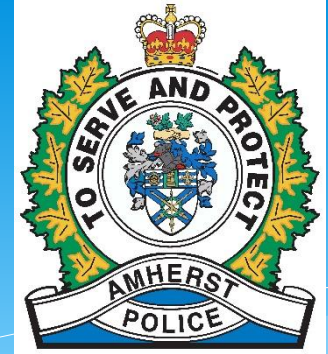
Staffing – Patrol Section



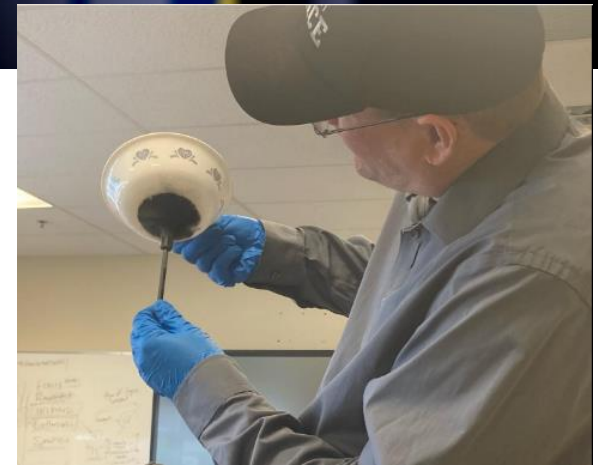
- The General Patrol Section consists of four platoons which are comprised of a Sergeant, a Corporal and two Constables
- Work 12 hour shifts, and provide 24/7 policing
- Are most visible to the public and are the primary first responders
- Respond to a broad range of calls, from the most minor to the most serious
- Their duties include but are not limited to:
 - response to emergency calls
 - investigations of criminal offences
 - drug enforcement
 - providing assistance to persons dealing with non criminal issues, i.e. mental health, landlord tenancy, child custody, homelessness
 - foot and proactive patrols



Staffing – Major Crime Unit



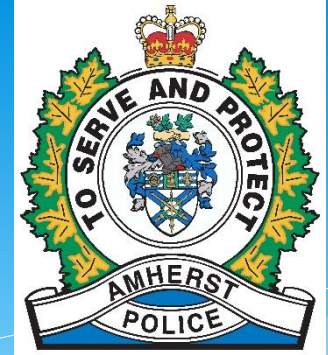
- One Corporal and 2 Constables
- Investigates incidents of a serious, complex and/or sensitive nature that includes:
 - sexual assaults
 - complex frauds
 - internal thefts
 - internet crimes
 - serious violent crimes i.e. robbery, assault with a weapon, homicide
- Often works closely with our Integrated Street Crime Unit
- Drug Trafficking
- Surveillance
- Exhibit Custodian
- Police Act Investigations
- Policy Development



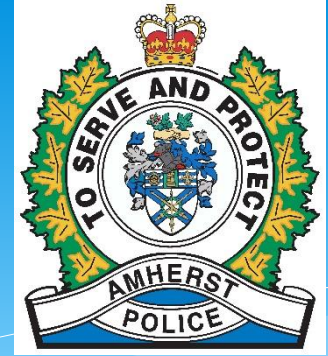
Cpl Tom Wood

Staffing –Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit

- The Cumberland Street Crime Enforcement Unit is an integrated unit comprised of two members of the Amherst Police Department and 3 members of the Cumberland RCMP
- The goal of the unit is to reduce crime in Cumberland County by the targeting of street level crime. The Unit investigates drug activity, contraband tobacco, multiple/serial break and enters, armed robberies, serial frauds, and major thefts
- Also provides assistance to APD and RCMP during significant events/investigations
- \$100,000 in funding is provided by to the Town of Amherst from the Province (Additional Officer Program) for each of our 2 positions. This covers the majority of the costs



Staffing – Crime Prevention



One Constable (AOP) and one Civilian Member
School Resource:

- Assist schools in providing a safe learning environment
- Develop a positive and trusting relationships with students, staff and parents
- Deliver police related programs
- Work with school staff to provide other support i.e. emotional health, safe grad, school events
- Provide required police related operational support (i.e. investigations, safety planning, enforcement of school zone speed limits)

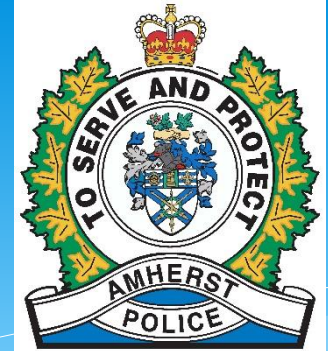
Crime Prevention Coordinator

- The goal of the Crime Prevention Coordinator is to work in partnership with the community to prevent the occurrence of crime. This is achieved through the development of programs which increase public awareness and involvement, provide strategies which reduce the opportunities of crime and support high risk groups such as seniors and youth
- Involved in many programs, special events and community groups. (Cram a Cruiser, Cops4Kids, Crime Stoppers, Seniors Police Academy)



Melanie Siddall
&
Cst Michelle Harrison

Infrastructure/Equipment



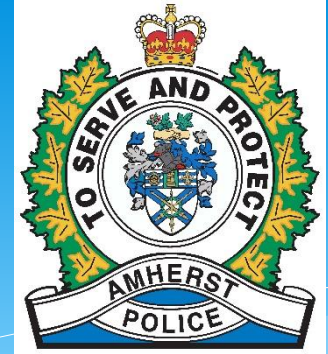
- * Police station with 24-hour dispatch and lock-up facilities
- * 5 marked Patrol Vehicles
- * Community/School Resource Vehicle
- * 2 unmarked vehicles (Major Crime and Street Crime)
- * 1 Bylaw truck
- * 1 Armoured Vehicle (SARV – Safe, Approach and Rescue Vehicle)

Various use of force tools and protective equipment including

- * 9mm pistols equipped with lights
- * Carbines equipped with red dot sights, magnifiers and lights
- * Conducted Energy Weapons (TASERs)
- * 40mm Launcher
- * Hard Body armour and ballistic helmets (made for increased ballistic threats)
- * Regular body armour
- * Prisoner Restraint Chair
- * And more...

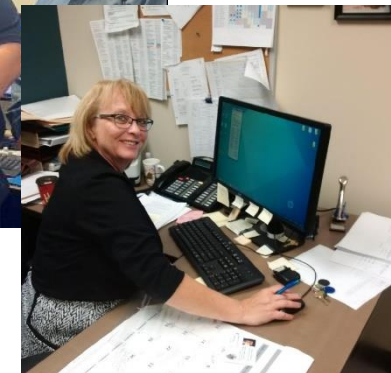
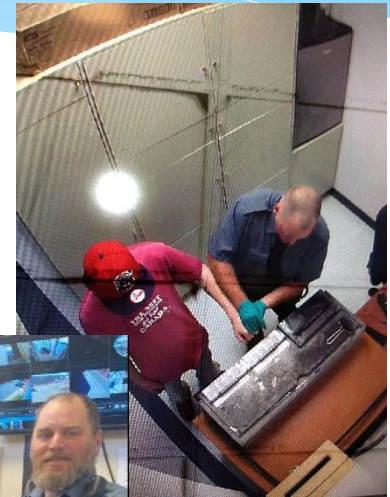


Support Staff

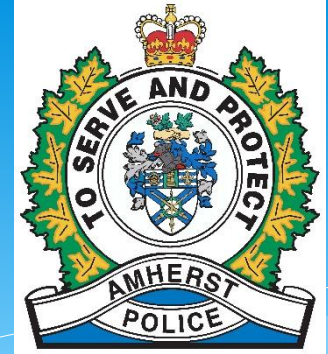


APD support staff includes:

- * Executive Assistance
- * Admin Assistants/Reception/Disclosure
- * By-Law Officer
- * 24/7 Dispatch Service
- * Crossing Guards
- * Jail Guard
- * Criminal Records Check



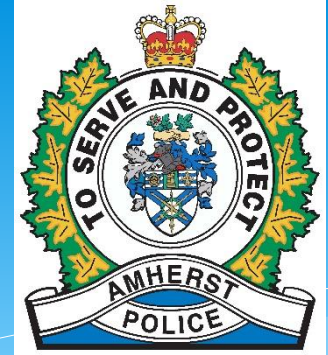
Budget



- Total Operational Budget for 2024/2025 – \$5,218,991
- Wages and Benefits – \$4,532,954
- Admin Costs - \$166,516
- Building and Facility Costs - \$89,773
- Vehicle and Equipment Costs -\$128,553
- Materials and Supplies - \$5,100
- Grants to Organizations - \$1,000
- Other municipal costs - \$141,140
- Fiscal Services - \$180,953
- Cost Recovery - \$27,000



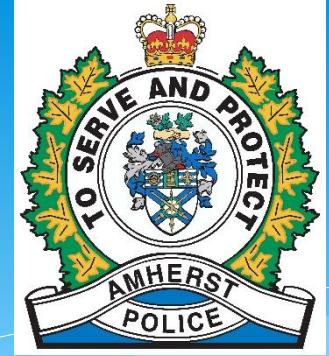
Major Projects/Issues



- Working on upgrading and equipping the SARV (Safe, Approach and Rescue Vehicle), much of it through the donation of equipment and other resources from community partners
- * Expansion of MOU's with other municipal Police Departments to develop specialty units to be able to respond to critical incidents
- * Currently upgrading our dispatch software and facilities to meet the operational demand
- * Recruiting for vacant positions recently approved by council
- * Developing an Auxiliary Policing Program to supplement our police/patrol resources



Police Commission



- * **Board Members**

- 3 members of Town council
- 4 citizen appointees. 3 municipal , 1 provincial

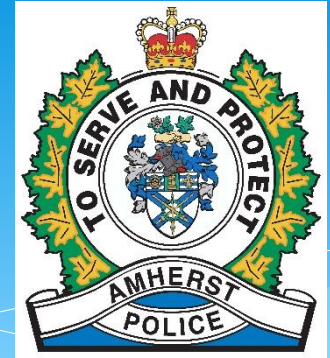
- * **Role of Board (Not all listed)**

- Determine priorities objectives and goals in consultation with Chief Officer
- Recommend policies, administrative and organizational direction for the effective management of the police service
- Ensure community needs and values are reflected in goals and objectives
- Ensure policing services are delivered in a manner consistent with community values, needs and expectations
- Act as a conduit between the community and the police
- Cause the Chief Officer to prepare a budget for the police department – the budget shall be submitted to council by the board for approval

- * **NOT the Role of the Board**

- The actual day to day direction of the police department

Questions



Chief's Report
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
December 10th, 2024

This report covers the month of November and October 2024



PERSONNEL

New Full-Time Employee: Shannon King, who was recently hired by APD to fill in for dispatch/admin shortages has been appointed to full-time dispatcher as of November 17th, 2024. Shannon had been recommended for part-time early this fall. She has been doing so well in her role on a part-time basis that as a result she started working in dispatch in late August and throughout September with dispatch coach officers. Many APD employees have commented on her ability and professionalism as a member of the APD Dispatch Team.

TRAINING

AWLE – Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement Conference: Cst Andrea Vriend was selected to attend the 2024 AWLE conference in Fredericton from November 19th to 22nd. Speakers during the week included Keeshant Sewell, (former New York City Commissioner), RCMP A/Comm Deanna Hill, and many others who spoke on various topics on policing that included Resiliency and Workplace Wellness, Women in Leadership, Indigenous Policing and case studies. The Conference included a parade and an awards banquet, recognizing the impact of women in law enforcement and the incredible work being done.

Human Source Management Course – November 4th -7th: Cst Jeff Goodwin, who is assigned to the Cumberland Street Crime Unit attended and completed the Human Source Management Course at H Div RCMP headquarters in Dartmouth. This course provides instruction and guidance for the cultivating and management of human sources who supply information to police on criminal activities. As the Street Crime Unit is an intelligence-led unit, these relationships are crucial to success and it is imperative to understand how human sources can be utilized and the liability issues involved in doing so.

Drone Training and Certifications: D/Chief Tim Hunter, Cst Jeff Goodwin and Cst Justin Chapman all completed testing and certification for the use of the APD/AFD drone. The course was very intensive with applicable testing relating to operation of a drone. This also included practical exams in which drone operators had to demonstrate their skills in advanced pilot certification. The drone, which is co-owned by APD and AFD will be a valuable tool in public safety for our community.



CIT – Train the Trainer: Cst Michelle Harrison was selected and attended the Crisis Intervention Team ‘train the trainer’ course in Halifax which ran from October 7th to the 10th (4 days). This course enables her to be a part of the training team that provides CIT training for police officers. The majority of APD members are CIT trained and certified, which provides them with extra tools, skills and resources for dealing with people in a mental health crisis. Initially Sergeant Graham had also been selected to attend, but was cancelled due to staffing shortages.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Red Ribbon Campaign kick-off: The annual Red-Ribbon campaign kick-off was held on November 28th at the Amherst Police Department, followed by checkpoints focused on combatting impaired driving and ensuring road safety during the holiday season. The Red Ribbon represents our unwavering commitment to not drive impaired and to share the message in our community. Impaired driving accidents are 100% preventable and are a priority during the holidays and into the new year.



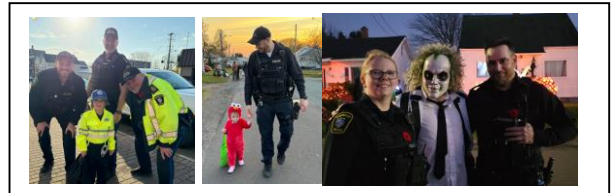
Christmas Parade: Members of the Amherst Police Department, along with our partners in Public Works, and the Town of Amherst worked during the Christmas Parade on Sunday November 24th, 2024 to ensure a kick-off to the holiday season. Attendance numbers were high as the Police Department escorted the parade through town and provided traffic control duties at various intersections.



Remembrance Day Ceremonies – November 11th, 2024: APD members attended and marched alongside our colleagues and partners during Remembrance Day Ceremonies, honoring those who served valiantly to protect our freedoms. Let us not forget.



Halloween – October 31st, 2024: Once again we had a very successful and safe Halloween, with extra members conducting foot patrols in various areas around town, including Strawberry Fields, Winston Avenue and the Downtown area. Trail of Treats was held and resulted in an increased presence of Trick or Treaters in the downtown area.



Prolific Incidents: A 60-year-old male was arrested and charged several times by Amherst Police over a 5-day period. The male, who is facing numerous charges that include assaulting a Police Officer, uttering threats, causing a disturbance and failing to obey release conditions. Amherst Police are also investigating the alleged offense of possession of stolen property in relation to a string of thefts that occurred in New Brunswick. The subject was arrested on the 17th of October, but was released the following morning by the courts with conditions that he leave the area. That afternoon he was arrested again after an incident at a local business and charged with breaching his release order. The following morning, on the 18th, he was released again. On the 19th, he was again arrested following a complaint at a local business and charged with breaching his order and was held until the morning of the 21st. He was released again by the courts and has since left this area, but is scheduled to appear again on the charges in November 2024.

Cumberland Street Crime: In November 2024, the Cumberland Street Crime Unit, which is comprised of members of the Amherst Police Department and the Cumberland RCMP executed a total of 6 warrants during the month of November and laid over 57 criminal code charges and arrested 5 individuals. The Street Crime Unit also assisted patrol sections for the RCMP on search warrants that resulted in 30 criminal code charges being laid. On November 29th, 2024, the Street Crime Unit assisted the RCMP with an incident in Oxford that resulted in the arrest of Christopher Mattinson, aged 33. RCMP had responded to a report of an assault at a residence in Oxford, but the suspect had left the area. The subject was later arrested after a vehicle pursuit in which a spike belt was deployed. The vehicle being used had been reported stolen. Mattinson appeared in court on November 29th and is facing several new charges that include Assault, Uttering Threats to Cause Death or Bodily Harm (4 counts), Mischief, Assault with a Weapon, Assaulting a Peace Officer, Flight from Peace Officer, Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose (2 counts), Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, Possess Firearm While Prohibited, Possession of Break-In Instruments, Theft Under \$5000 and Failing to Comply with Probation Order (2 counts).

Shoplifting Complaints: Overall, our shoplifting complaints remain fairly consistent, but we witnessed a spike in November when shoplifting complaints increased to 17 occurrences. This compares to 8 in October and 11 in September. Such complaints often come in waves as a result of arrests/periods of incarceration or often the ‘relocation’ of specific persons. Our stats may also be slightly skewed as actual incidents are often under reported or go unnoticed. APD also received 27 complaints of theft in November and 31 complaints in October. In November we had 4 reported complaints of gas drive-offs as compared to 7 in October and 9 in September.

Homelessness: During the month of November, APD members responded to 41 complaints that had a nexus to homelessness, showing a slight drop from 47 complaints during October. Many of the complaints are surrounding 3-4 of the same people.

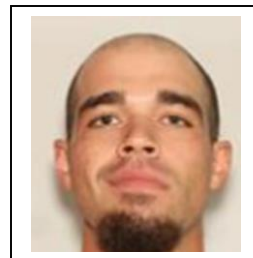


OPERATIONAL

Sexual Assault Charges – November 27th, 2024: A local ‘Holistic Practitioner’ has been arrested and is facing charges of sexual assault. Mangala Ranasinghe, aged 59 years old, who operates “Healing Touch Holistic” located in Amherst Nova Scotia was arrested on November 27th, 2024 after the Amherst Police Major Crime Unit, with the assistance of the Patrol Section, executed a search warrant at that location. The investigation was initiated after Amherst Police received a complaint from an adult female that she had allegedly been sexually assaulted during a visit to the location in October 2024. Ranasinghe was arrested, held in custody and was later released by the courts on conditions.

Break and Enter – Multiple Charges – November 12th, 2024: 30-year-old Taylor Robert Murphy of no fixed address has been charged with 348(1)(a) CC - Break Enter x 5, 88(1) CC – Carry a Weapon Dangerous to the Public Peace x 2, 430(4) CC – Mischief x 2, 334(b) CC – Theft under \$5000, and Public Mischief – Intent to Mislead Police. Police had been called to the Queen Street area on November 12th 2024 at approximately 5:46pm when 2 subsequent calls regarding a suspect breaking into residences in the Queen Street area were received. In one instance, the suspect allegedly broke into a residence by crawling through a window he had smashed out. The suspect was in possession of a knife and was confronted by occupants. The suspect fled the residence through the rear entrance and towards another residence where he allegedly smashed in another window and crawled inside where he was again confronted by the occupants. He fled the scene and was met on the street by responding police officers. The accused dropped the weapon and was taken into custody without further incident. He was taken to the hospital and treated for his injuries and then held in police cells for the night. Subsequent investigation resulted in additional charges of attempting to break and enter into other residences in the area. He made a brief appearance in court on November 13th and has been remanded into custody. He is scheduled to return to court on December 4th, 2024 for a show-cause hearing.

Wanted – Cumberland Street Crime Unit: On October 30th, at approximately 8:40 a.m., members of the Cumberland SCEU initiated a traffic stop on a black Lincoln Nautilus in relation to an ongoing drug trafficking investigation. As members exited their vehicles, the driver reversed the Nautilus in the direction of officers, striking one of the police vehicles. The Nautilus then fled toward New Brunswick at a high rate of speed. In the interest of public safety, officers did not pursue the vehicle. Adam Joseph Hie, 30, of Moncton, is wanted and facing charges that include Assaulting a Peace Officer (3 counts), Assault with a Weapon, Dangerous Operation of a Conveyance, Flight from Police and Obstruct Police Officer. Hie is also wanted in New Brunswick for Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking and Escape Lawful Custody. Police have made several attempts to locate Hie, and are requesting assistance from the public.



Search Warrant – October 17th, 2024: The Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit executed a search warrant and has charged 3 people in relation to complaints concerning an illegal cannabis dispensary on South Albion Street in Amherst. During the search, investigators seized hundreds of grams of illicit cannabis in various forms, as well as a quantity of psilocybin. On October 28th, a third person was arrested in connection with the investigation. The three face charges that include: Possession of Cannabis for the Purpose of Distributing, Possession of Cannabis for the Purpose of Selling, Possession of Unstamped Cannabis Possession of Psilocybin for the Purpose of Trafficking. Two of the individuals are also facing charges of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. The only legal and safe way to purchase cannabis in the province is at licensed locations. Uninspected and unregulated cannabis can pose a serious public safety risk. This is the second time that the Street Crime Unit has executed a search warrant at this location. On August 27th, the Street Crime Unit arrested 2 people at this same location. Both have been charged with offenses under the Cannabis Act.

OPERATIONAL STATS – NOVEMBER 2024

Occurrences:	457	Criminal Code Charges:	38
Impaired by Alcohol:	7	CDSA:	4
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	31	PPA:	1
Traffic Written Warnings:	8	Vehicle Checks:	0
LCA:	0	Parking Tickets:	0
Prk Warnings:	0		
Foot Patrol Hours:	37 hrs 54 min		

OPERATIONAL STATS – OCTOBER 2024

Occurrences:	501	Criminal Code Charges:	50
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	1	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	14	PPA:	0
Traffic Written Warnings:	5	Vehicle Checks:	82
LCA:	0	Parking Tickets:	0
Prk Warnings:	0		
Foot Patrol Hours:	80 hrs 29 min		

